

**Geography of the Pacific.** *Otis W. Freeman*, Editor. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1951. New York. xiv+572 pp., illustrated. \$10.00.

The Pacific is a mighty ocean and anyone or any group of persons who undertakes to treat adequately and comprehensively the ocean, the islands, the peoples, the industries, and other essential features of the geography of the Pacific realm, assumes a herculean task. Professor Freeman as editor and the 12 other contributors have brought together in a single volume both a general treatment of the Pacific area and a more detailed analysis of the major geographical divisions of the ocean, the island groups, and the borderland area of Australia. Of the 19 chapters four are general in character and treat of the geography, the people, the cartography, and the trade, transportation, and strategic location in the Pacific. Fifteen chapters are devoted to the individual island areas or borderlands of the Pacific, such as, New Zealand, Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Hawaii, the Philippines, Australia, and others.

In the first chapter the editor has succeeded well in reviewing, abstracting, and otherwise presenting the essential content of a voluminous literature on the shoreline, the ocean floor, the climate, the currents, the geology, the coral problem, the soils, resources, biological phenomena, the people, and other themes of geographic interest. The regional chapters prepared by professional geographers or other scientists of high competency and personal familiarity with their respective areas are organized in an orderly if not identical manner so that the significant features of the landscapes, the soils, the resources, the peoples, the economies, and political problems come under critical scrutiny.

This book, like others written by a number of contributing authors, lacks some of the continuity and balance expected in a book written by a single author, but the editor and the publishers have done well to achieve a degree of unity which makes this book a significant contribution to the geography of the Pacific. Multiple authorship confers on the book a degree of authority on a variety of subjects, areas, and themes which few individuals could hope to attain in a lifetime of travel, study, and research.

GUY-HAROLD SMITH

## PLAN TO ATTEND—

The Sixty-first Annual Meeting of  
the Ohio Academy of Science

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY,  
KENT, OHIO

April 17, 18, 19, 1952